

I write as a widely-renowned and published scholar in Sikh and Sikh American history, the former holder of the Sabherwal Endowed Chair of Sikh and Punjabi Studies at California State University, East Bay, and the founder of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF). Please convey my comments below to the Instructional Quality Commission of the California Department of Education.

Historians the world over in the field of Sikh history have concurred that the murder of tens of thousands of Sikhs by the Indian state in 1984-- both in their holiest shrine Sri Darbar Sahib (the Golden Temple) in June, and throughout the largely rural state of Punjab in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination-- was a genocide. India's own Supreme Court has described it as "worse than a genocide."

As such, to accurately represent this seminal period in modern Sikh history, the IQC should ensure that description of the genocidal assault on India's tiny Sikh minority in 1984 is described as such in the draft history-social science curriculum framework for students in grade 12.

I remain at your service if you have any queries or comments.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jaideep Singh